

O

Judge: Rahm can run **8** Celeb hookups and breakups **30**

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JANUARY 5, 2011

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TASTE DUB?

Sole bid to take over Taste of Chicago calls for \$20 admission at peak times—will the city bite? **PAGE 7**

best bets

By Jessica Gallart
Jgallart@tribune.com



For those who need to get lit

The Annoyance Theatre,
4830 N. Broadway
773-561-4665

Experience a world where novels are handed down through a twisted game of "Telephone" and "Moby Dick" becomes "Moby Dicksical," in "American Lit," a comedic ode to the printed word. 8 p.m. \$15.

For brainiacs

Adventure Stage Chicago,
1012 N. Noble St. 773-342-4141

Learn by accident at the eclectic and entertaining monthly series The Encyclopedia Show, where comedians and writers perform skits and bits related to the show's theme chosen from the encyclopedia. This month: The cast explores "brains." 7:30 p.m. \$8.

For Leslie Nielsen fans

Lincoln Hall, 2424 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-525-2501

FREE Pay homage to a king of absurd comedy at the 3 Penny Was Here: Lincoln Hall Movie Night tribute to the late Leslie Nielsen. Catch 1980's "Airplane!" and "The Naked Gun: From the Files of Police Squad" at the Lakeview concert venue and former cinema. 7 p.m.

FIND MORE BEST BETS AT METROMIX.COM

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RANDOM WEDNESDAY

Over on our Facebook page, we like to do this little thing called Facebook Random Question of the Day. And it's exactly that: random. **Tuesday's question was: You wake up \$355 million richer after winning the Mega Millions jackpot. What's the first thing you buy?**

Check out some of the responses we received.

T.G. Warford: A new phone number

Trisha Day: A private doctor, cuz my blood pressure is gonna be thru the roof!

Andrew Kent: I'd buy Hot Doug's and Kuma's so I'd never have to wait in one of their lines again!

Maria Loera: Buy??!?! Yeah right! How about paying last month's People's Gas bill!

Scott Sandalow: The first place I lived in college, a greystone 3 flat right on Sheffield and Webster.

Alyssa Bell: I would donate about \$10 million dollars to the save the children foundation that I work for.



TRIBUNE FILE

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34°
TODAY'S FORECAST

A pretty slow day, all things considered



THU. 24°
9 Must we really ...
... get used to seeing ...



SAT. 21°
13 ... temps in the 20s ...
SUN. 28°
20 ... all the time now?

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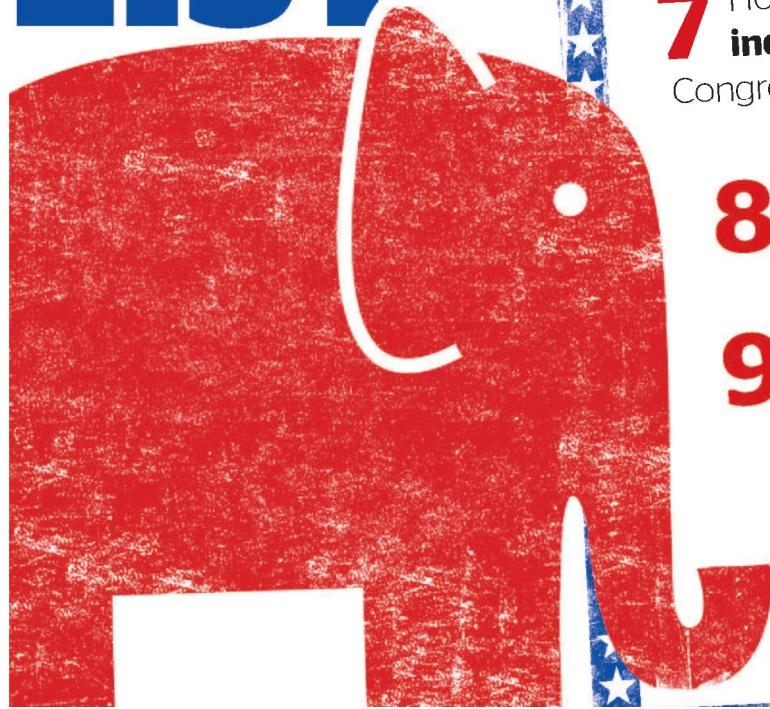
What Republicans want when they take charge of the House this week

Republicans in the House of Representatives successfully campaigned in November congressional elections on a "Pledge to America" that they said would heal the ailing economy.

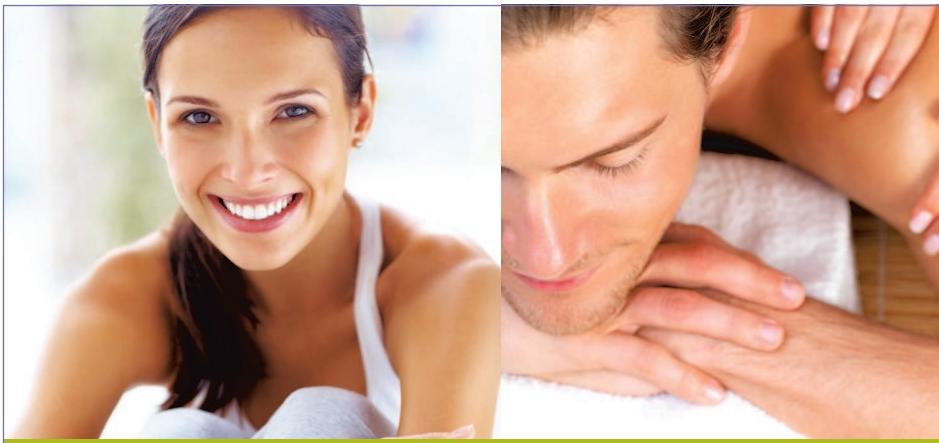
While short on specifics, the agenda aims to create jobs, reduce spending, shrink government and cut taxes. The Democrats still hold the Senate, making it difficult for Republicans to carry out many of their pledges.

Here is a look at key points in the agenda that Republicans will push when they take control of the House on Wednesday, according to Reuters.

GOP WISH LIST



- 1 Repeal and replace President Obama's landmark overhaul of the health care system** with measures to lower medical costs, permit Americans to buy insurance across state lines and enact liability reform to curb what critics call frivolous lawsuits against doctors.
- 2 End government control of mortgage giants** Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, which buy residential mortgages to free up lenders to engage in new deals. Both have been accused of poor decisions that undermined the U.S. housing industry.
- 3 Save an estimated \$100 billion by rolling back federal spending to 2008 levels,** with exceptions for the elderly, U.S. troops and veterans.
- 4 Impose a net hiring freeze on non-security federal workers.** New employees would be hired only to replace those who leave.
- 5 Allow small business owners to take a tax deduction** equal to 20 percent of their income. The revenue loss likely would add to huge federal budget deficits and further complicate efforts to slow the growth of cumulative debt.
- 6 Extend all Bush-era tax cuts permanently** for the middle class as well as wealthier Americans. In December, Congress approved a two-year extension.
- 7 House Republican leaders have also called for repealing tougher financial industry regulations** enacted by Obama and his fellow Democrats in Congress, although it was not included in the election pledge.
- 8 Cancel all unspent money** from Obama's \$814 billion economic stimulus plan.
- 9 Require congressional approval of any new federal regulations** that may add to the budget deficit "or make it harder to create jobs."
- 10 Bolster border security and require that suspected militants be tried in military** rather than civilian courts. In August, Congress approved \$600 million in additional funds to improve border security.



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KATIE DONBAVAND
ritaredeye@tribune.com

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These pants will kill your game

I recently was alerted to a horrific trend that I feel compelled to rally against. No, it's not a new e-mail scam that steals your identity or some weird new way kids are getting high. It's much worse than that. It is pajama jeans.

For those of you lucky enough to have not yet encountered them, let me break it down for you: The pajama jeans are dark blue sweat pants painted with fake stitching with a couple of pockets glued to the butt in an attempt to look like real clothes.

For those of you who actually own a pair of pajama jeans, allow me to be the honest best friend you clearly don't have: You aren't fooling anyone. We know they aren't real pants.

No one wants to make out with someone wearing pajama jeans. If you choose to purchase the saggy-crotched sweats, your genitals might as well be waving a white flag. On a scale of Totally Un-datable to Johnny Depp, pajama jeans are going to land you somewhere around backne.

According to the unintentionally hilarious infomercial, the biggest draw of pajama jeans is that they're comfortable—"so comfortable you'll want to sleep in them." As if sleeping in your clothes is a huge time saver or something you long to do not just after a night of too many tequila shots. Let's be honest: The real reason people want to wear pajama jeans isn't for comfort's sake. It's for laziness.

Pajama jeans wearers, you are better than that.

I'm not expecting anyone to walk the dog in Valentino and opera gloves, but don't give up completely! I understand not wanting to look as though you tried too hard, but don't you want to look like you tried at all? Like it or not, you are judged every day you walk out of the house by your clothing. We all are.

If you are ready to sacrifice your own style (and dignity, as all your friends will make fun of you behind your back—I promise) by wearing pajama jeans, won't somebody think of the children? Think of the generations of kids decades from now picking up their history books and thumbing through the chapter on the 21st century, peppered with photos of a country full of pajama jeans and Crocs. You know how we sigh in pure fashion bliss watching "Mad Men" now? There will be none of that in cable shows of the future if this awful trend continues.

Let pajama jeans be the sartorial equivalent of the shot heard 'round the world—a garment so heinous that it sparks a revolution, a global change. We must rise up together against the tidal wave of casual culture that threatens to flood our nation. Rage against the siren song of comfort, comfort, comfort. Banish flip-flops as your Friday night shoes of choice, exile Crocs from your closets, confine yoga pants to the gym. Who's with me? Heed our rallying cry, all together now: Down with pajama jeans!

KATIE DONBAVAND IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR.



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ONE TAKE

"Given the qualifications of the bidder—Celebrate Chicago, a partnership that includes experienced concert promoters Jam Productions and AEG Live, plus the Illinois Restaurant Association—accepting the bid offers not just a way for the city to trim its budget but to actually improve the musical quality of its downtrodden summer festivals."

—Tribune music critic **Greg Kot** in a blog post Tuesday. Read the full piece at leisureblogs.chicagotribune.com/turn_it_up

CONCERT FEE

Under Celebrate Chicago's proposal, there would be a cost for concerts ranging from \$25-\$65, according to reports.



Taste of Chicago festival
ANTONIO PEREZ/TRIBUNE FILE

BAD TASTE?

We turned to RedEye's Facebook and Twitter contingent for opinions on possible admission fees to the Taste of Chicago. Here are some replies. For other thoughts on the Taste and more conversation, check us out on Twitter at @redeye_chicago and on Facebook at facebook.com/theredeye.

FACEBOOK

Carol Adams: Maybe if food prices were reasonable, people would be willing to pay an admission price. Between the expensive (and often mediocre) food, the heat, and the enormous crowds/jostling, I often avoid it anyway. But if you add a \$20 fee, I would absolutely not go.

Therese Ruiz: Admission fee with discounts on food sounds great to me. Then I'd actually go. Too dang crowded now. Assuming admission fees [would] lessen number of Taste goers.

Marlon Ratliff: Absolutely not! We've been hoodwinked, bamboozled, run amuck. We didn't land on the Taste of Chicago admission fees; the Taste of Chicago admission fees have landed on us! Truly, I wouldn't pay, but the money has to come from somewhere and if the private sector isn't ponying up, it becomes another budget deficit issue.

Emmanuel Hollowell: Given what the overall history of what the Taste is supposed to be about ... it's WHACK. But w/ history as of late (i.e: overcrowding, and random and/or not so random acts of violence. An admission could possibly help minimize those issues.

TWITTER

@MDes25: No way, would rather go to the restaurant.

@jbellachi: Yep. Sucker for food/fairs!

@semibold: I've lived in Chicago for 25 years and I've never gone to the Taste, even when it was free. You'd have to PAY ME \$20.

PAY TO TASTE

ALDERMAN CALLS FOR HEARINGS AFTER \$20 FEE FOR SUMMER FEST FLOATED

Chicago Tribune

Would you pay \$20 to attend the Taste of Chicago?

That was the question Tuesday after a report that the sole bidder to step up to Mayor Daley's request for someone to take over running the event and other festivals had proposed the fee.

Reports of the proposal caused a stir Tuesday, particularly online.

Chicagoans on Facebook and Twitter took to the keyboard with comments ranging from "I think it's a ridiculous overpriced event anyway" to "I'd go for \$20 if all the food was free" to several "Hell no!" responses on RedEye's Facebook fan page.

Meanwhile, a key alderman Tuesday called for public hearings on the idea to charge attendees \$20 on peak days to get into the traditionally free summertime lakefront smorgasbord.

The Illinois Restaurant Association has teamed

up with two concert promoters to put in the only bid following Daley's request for someone to take over Taste operations. The Celebrate Chicago group includes Jam Productions and AEG Live—the company that puts on the Coachella Valley Music and Arts Festival in California and co-produces the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival.

The group's plan calls for a \$20 admission charge on weekends and on July Fourth. Attendees could get in free before 4 p.m. on other days, but would be charged \$20 for entry later on those days, according to a proposed payment schedule released by the restaurant association. Children younger than 10 still could get in for free.

Celebrate Chicago's plan calls for the \$20 admission to come with \$10 in food and beverage tickets. General admission tickets could be purchased in advance for \$8 per person. It's not well-known,

but there's already an amenities fee of \$2 per strip of food tickets to cover the Taste's costs.

Ald. Walter Burnett Jr. (27th), chairman of the City Council's Committee on Special Events and Cultural Affairs, said members of the public, his colleagues and business owners need an opportunity to weigh in on Celebrate Chicago's idea.

Burnett said he isn't necessarily opposed to the \$20 fee, noting that it's less expensive than admission to other privately run festivals held in city parks.

"What if we don't do this, and the city can't afford to keep holding Taste?" Burnett asked. "Then some private company could come forward with an idea for another festival in the park and we wouldn't have any control over admissions."

The proposal would need to go to the City Council and the Park District Board for approval.

REDEYE CONTRIBUTED

RAHM STILL IN

JUDGE RULES EMANUEL MAY REMAIN ON THE MAYORAL BALLOT

Chicago Tribune

Rahm Emanuel won another round Tuesday in his battle to stay on the ballot for Chicago mayor, but those trying to knock him off vowed further appeals that could take weeks.

Early voting begins Jan. 31, and it's unclear whether the legal process will be finished by then. Veteran elections attorney Burt Odelson said he will file an appeal Wednesday of Cook County Judge Mark J. Ballard's decision. If Odelson loses at the Illinois Appellate Court, he said, he will take the case to the state Supreme Court.

"We couldn't have worse luck," Odelson said. "All election lawyers go through that. You lose below and you win above, or you win below and you lose above."

Odelson said he will ask appellate judges to hear the case on an expedited basis so that they could rule within about two weeks.

Ballard said Odelson failed to prove Emanuel abandoned his North Side home when he became White House chief of staff. The judge agreed with last month's decision by the Chicago Board of Election Commissioners that Emanuel never intended to terminate his residence in Chicago.

Ballard also said that "having a place to sleep," which was part of Odelson's argument, is not a "touchstone of continued residence."

Odelson argued Emanuel shouldn't be allowed to run for mayor because Emanuel was living in Washington working for President Obama and thus doesn't meet the requirement of living in Chicago for one year prior to the Feb. 22 election.



A Cook County judge ruled Tuesday that Rahm Emanuel (above) can stay on the ballot for Chicago mayor. Lawyers plan to contest the decision in Illinois Appellate Court. **ALEX GARCIA/Tribune**

Emanuel's attorneys argued he never gave up his Chicago residency, continued to vote and pay property taxes here and always intended to move back.

Elections board spokesman Jim Allen said com-

missioners have "every hope and sense of confidence that the [appellate and Supreme] courts will recognize the urgency of this matter and resolve this case well ahead of early voting."

Smokers' days numbered at apartment building

Chicago Tribune

Tenants at Kingsbury Plaza, an apartment building in River North, had a New Year's resolution made for them by the management firm The Habitat Co. this year: Quit smoking.

The alternative: Move.

Kingsbury notified residents late last year that as of Jan. 1, it would begin a yearlong transition to becoming a smoke-free building, meaning smokers have 2011 to either kick the habit or find someplace else to live.

If the new policy is successful at Kingsbury, Habitat, which manages more than 3,300 market-rate apartments in eight Chicago buildings, may apply it to other properties, said Gary Lundemo, Kingsbury's property supervisor.



CHARLES OSGOOD/Tribune File

Several new high-rise apartments that have opened their doors in downtown Chicago during the past two years have marketed themselves as

smoke-free residences catering to affluent, white-collar professionals. Few existing buildings have thus far adopted a smoke-free stance, but the anticipated healthier market for apartments this year is expected to lead to higher rents, and perhaps more experimentation with building policies.

Kingsbury welcomed smokers when it opened three years ago. But last fall, the 420-unit building, which is 96 percent occupied, conducted a resident satisfaction survey that showed a concern about second-hand smoke. Lundemo estimates that 15 percent of tenants are smokers.

In addition to the potential marketing benefits, Habitat also will see lower costs associated with readying a smoker's unit for a new tenant and may see lower insurance costs.

Moseley Braun releases tax forms

Mayoral candidate Carol Moseley Braun released portions of her tax returns Tuesday. She had said early Monday that she would not do so before the Feb. 22 election, but later in the day she said she would. Braun did not release schedules or statements to go along with her 1040 forms, making details about her financial situation difficult to discern.

Art Institute swaps free day

The Art Institute of Chicago is getting rid of its free Thursday evenings program in favor of a new Wednesday schedule to attract more local residents, according to a museum spokeswoman. "The tracking that we did over the summer and the fall for the Thursday night free hours showed that we were getting a majority of tourists and out-of-state residents," spokeswoman Erin Hogan said.

Review uncovers questionable expenses

An independent investigation into spending by Chicago Public Schools' board presidents has uncovered more than \$800,000 in questionable expenses in recent years, including thousands spent at lavish restaurants and hotels at a time when teachers and the district's rank-and-file were being asked to cut expenses.

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An alleged assassin (back left) points his gun toward Reynaldo Dagsa, who was taking a photo of family members (front) on Friday while the alleged lookout (back right) stands behind. GETTY IMAGES

Councilman shoots photo of his killer

1 Moments before being shot Friday, a local councilman in the Philippines captured a photograph of the man who was about to pull the trigger. Now police are using it to solve the case and track down the killer.

Reynaldo Dagsa, councilman of a section of Caloocan City, was taking a picture of three of his family members standing alongside a car. In the photo, behind them, is a man in a cap pointing a gun directly at Dagsa. There also is another man in the photo, later identified as the shooter's lookout, CNN affiliate ABS-CBN reported.

The family turned the photo over to police, who then raided homes in the area and arrested two men. Caloocan Police Chief Superintendent Jude Santos told CNN the two are suspects, "but the gunman is still at large. But we will get him—he has been identified in the photo."

A new 'Huck Finn'
Publisher NewSouth Books is releasing an edition of Mark Twain's "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" with all instances of the "N" word replaced with the word "slave." The effort is being spearheaded by Twain expert Alan Gribben, who says this version will increase readership, particularly for school-age children.

Archdiocese files for bankruptcy
3 The Catholic Archdiocese of Milwaukee is filing for bankruptcy protection, it announced Tuesday, citing the cost of lawsuits filed against priests by victims of sexual abuse. Milwaukee was home to Father Lawrence Murphy, who was accused of molesting as many as 200 boys over the course of decades.

Security chief: Doctor unable to perform CPR

2 **LOS ANGELES** Dr. Conrad Murray seemed not to know how to administer cardiopulmonary resuscitation as he waited for paramedics to arrive at Michael Jackson's house, a witness at Murray's preliminary hearing testified Tuesday.

Former Jackson security chief Faheem Muhammed said he and guard Alberto Alvarez saw Murray crouched next to Jackson's bed "in a panicked state asking, 'Does anyone know CPR?'"

"I looked at Alberto because we knew Dr. Murray was a heart surgeon, so we were shocked," Muhammed said.

When defense lawyer Ed Chernoff asked if perhaps Murray was asking for help only because he was tired, Muhammed said, "The way that he asked it is as if he didn't know CPR."

Jackson appeared to be dead at that time, with his "eyes open and his mouth open, just laying there," he said.

Jackson's two oldest children, Prince and Paris, were at their father's bedroom door as the drama unfolded just after noon June 25, 2009, Muhammed said.

"Paris was on the floor on her hands and knees and she was just crying," he said.

The children would learn two hours later that their father had died when Murray and Jackson manager Frank Dileo talked to them in a hospital room.

"Frank blurted out and said, 'Your daddy had a heart attack and died,'" Jackson personal assistant Michael Williams testified.



A fan of the late Michael Jackson holds a sign Tuesday outside the courthouse during the preliminary hearing of Dr. Conrad Murray. GETTY IMAGES

THE HEARING

Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Michael Pastor will decide whether there is "probable cause" to try Dr. Conrad Murray for involuntary manslaughter in Michael Jackson's death. The hearing is expected to last two or three weeks, with 20-30 witnesses testifying.

Court delays Prop 8 case

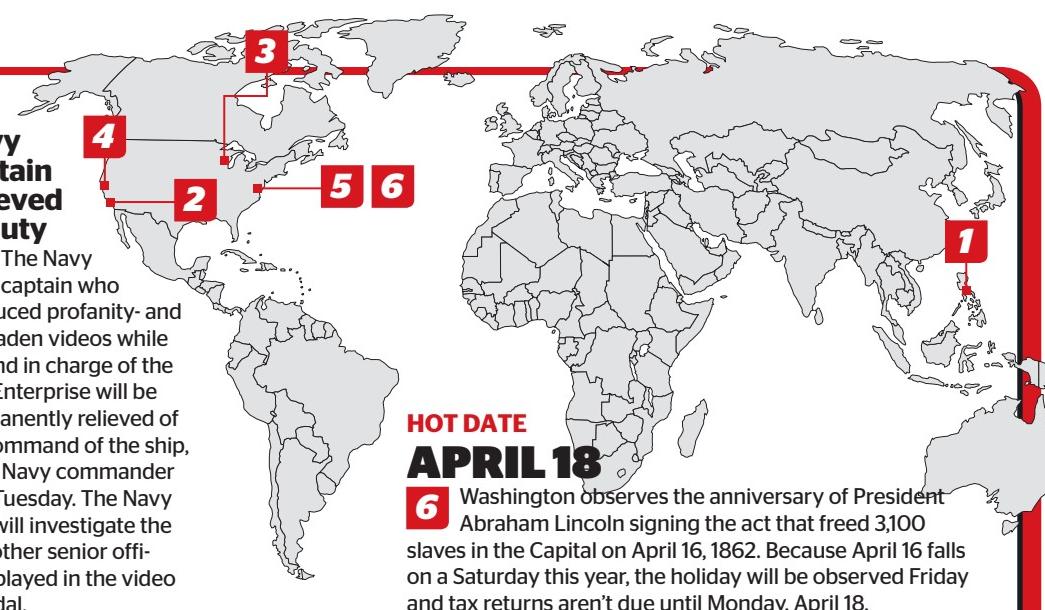
4 A federal appeals court in San Francisco decided Tuesday to indefinitely delay consideration of a case regarding the constitutionality of that state's voter-approved ban on same-sex marriage. The decision asks the Supreme Court of California to consider whether state or county officials have the authority to defend Proposition 8.

Navy captain relieved of duty

5 The Navy captain who produced profanity- and slur-laden videos while second in charge of the USS Enterprise will be permanently relieved of his command of the ship, a top Navy commander said Tuesday. The Navy also will investigate the role other senior officers played in the video scandal.

**HOT DATE
APRIL 18**

6 Washington observes the anniversary of President Abraham Lincoln signing the act that freed 3,100 slaves in the Capital on April 16, 1862. Because April 16 falls on a Saturday this year, the holiday will be observed Friday and tax returns aren't due until Monday, April 18.



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A large bottle of Michelob Ultra beer is positioned on the left side of the frame, its label clearly visible. Next to it stands Lance Armstrong, a professional cyclist, wearing a dark blue Nike t-shirt and a silver fitness tracker on his left wrist. He has his arms crossed and is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. In the background, two other cyclists are riding their bicycles on a path through a grassy field under a clear blue sky.

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THE PAYOFF WILD DOG

Whizzer can deal with these NFL playoff cards

Well, well, well, we meet again. If you haven't noticed, RedEye canned my daily predictions column. You probably didn't notice because no one read it. Oh well, you can't keep a good dog down.

I'm back, for one day at least, to work my prognosticating magic on the NFL playoffs. Although the Bears aren't playing, two of these games bear watching closely. (See what I did there?) Of course, it's the last game of the weekend that ultimately will determine who visits Soldier Field on Jan. 16.

OK, enough from me. Unlike Chris Berman, I know when to shut up. Here now, my playoff picks.

BEARS SIGN WR

After losing Juaquin Iglesias off their practice squad when he was signed by Minnesota, the Bears have replaced him with wide receiver Eric Peterman. Peterman, a Northwestern product, spent much of the 2010 offseason with the Bears before being waived Aug. 23. **TRIBUNE**



Seattle vs. New Orleans

3:30 p.m. Saturday, NBC

1 Congratulations, Seahawks, on your scintillating 7-9 season. You squeaked into the postseason, earned the right to host a playoff game and became the only team to win a division with a losing record. Your reward? The defending champion Saints. Good luck with that.

WHIZZER'S PREDICTION:
Saints 31, Seahawks 20

Indianapolis vs. N.Y. Jets

7 p.m. Saturday, CBS

2 The Colts have Hall of Fame quarterback Peyton Manning. The Jets have Mark Sanchez, a quarterback better known for his moles than his throws. I know the feeling, Mark. When people meet me, they can't stop talking about my ears. Well, hear me now: Manning will not let the Colts lose. Not at home.

WHIZZER'S PREDICTION:
Colts 27, Jets 23

Kansas City vs. Baltimore

Noon Sunday, CBS

3 The Chiefs are a great story. They went from worst to first in the AFC West. They have three young studs in quarterback Matt Cassel, running back Jamaal Charles and receiver Dwayne Bowe. What don't they have? The Ravens defense. Game over.

WHIZZER'S PREDICTION:
Ravens 24, Chiefs 17

Philadelphia vs. Green Bay

3:30 p.m. Sunday, Fox

4 This could be the game of the weekend. Philadelphia has electric quarterback Michael Vick—and I don't mean that in the Tucker Carlson sense in that I wish he were executed. Green Bay has gun-slinging quarterback Aaron Rodgers. The Packers are the bad pick, which I avoid. It's Vick and the Eagles.

WHIZZER'S PREDICTION:
Eagles 38, Packers 30

My Bears apologies

Now that I've finished stuffing my face with a delicious bowl of crow served up by your Bears, it's time to issue some official mea culpas. Here are the Top Ten Bears Who Deserve an Apology.



top ten chicago sports

MATT OLSEN
chicagonow.com/blogs

10 MATT FORTE

Despite a shaky O-line, Forte put up 1,000 yards rushing and 500 yards receiving for the first time since Walter Payton.

9 ROD MARINELLI

Credit him for surviving a season with Lovie controlling the defense like a puppet.

8 CHARLES TILLMAN

Watching Peanut can be infuriating at times. But his ability to generate turnovers is enough to excuse blown coverages.

7 MIKE TICE

Only Lindsay Lohan, the Kardashians and the Black Eyed Peas have done more with less. Without Tice, Cutler would be dead.

6 CHRIS HARRIS

The horrendous safeties we suffered through after you were traded, and your stellar performance this season, makes an apology long overdue.

5 DEVIN HESTER

Please forgive us for thinking you'd lost it. You're the most explosive weapon we have and the definition of a game-changer.

4 BRIAN URLACHER

I thought you had nothing left in the tank and would bitch and whine your way through another injury-plagued season. Thanks for proving me wrong.

3 MIKE MARTZ

Swallowing your pride and committing to the run may not have been easy for you. Bears Nation thanks you for doing just that.

2 JAY CUTLER

Let's make a deal, Jay. We'll ignore the way you pout like a child if you stop throwing picks in the red zone.

1 LOVIE SMITH

I'm still not convinced you're the right coach for this team. But I'll be first in line to apologize for thinking you'd embarrass us.

READ MORE LISTS AT CHICAGONOW.COM/TOP-TEN-CHICAGO-SPORTS.

Think you can outdo Whizzer's predictions? Go to chicagonow.com/homers and enter your playoff picks in the comments of Whizzer's post. If you do better and get closer on the scores, you could win a RedEye hat or shirt or something.

five on five**For Pete's sake**

Pete Gaines of Cubs blog A League of Her Own brings the comedy. If only he would bring the Cubs some luck or sense or ...



TOPIC	TRACY SWARTZ twitter.com/tracyswartz	ERNEST WILKINS twitter.com/remixchicago	SOXMAN twitter.com/theoxman72	ASHLEY BOND chicagonow.com/bodybybond	PETE GAINES chicagonow.com/league-of-her-own
1 How are you counting down the days until the Bears' playoff game?	With Major Wright's digits.	Working out. Ha! Just playing. My resolution is to keep flirting with Ashley.	I'm writing a screenplay called "Interception" starring Jay Cutler and Leonardo DiCaprio.	Buying all the Bears clothes from the Pink collection at Victoria's Secret.	Watching Steve Fuller's "Super Bowl Shuffle" verse on repeat. Bring on Atlanta, indeed.
2 The Bears should spend their bye week hoping the game comes faster.	... reading "How to shut an opponent down and win the Super Bowl with a Martz offense" by the '99 Rams.	... scouting their next opponent while eating Cajun food and cheese steaks.	... practicing! Hard work pays off.	... reading LOHO and catching up on all the "exciting" moves the Cubs have made this offseason.
3 Why wasn't Patrick Sharp on the NHL All-Star ballot?	He'll be written in. With a Sharpie ...	Because the voters didn't get the point. Get it? Sharp? Point?	His No. 2 pencil wasn't sharp enough to fill in the oval.	Jealousy; not everyone can be named one of Chicago's sexiest athletes.	So far this season, I'm not sure any Blackhawks deserve to be on the ballot.
4 Why shouldn't Derrick Rose be the NBA MVP?	He couldn't pass the test.	Why the hell not? Who should be if he isn't? John Wall's "Solid Gold" dancin' ass?	Because many people are starting to think James Wade Bosh actually is one individual person.	No, he should be NBA MVP. But if not, he has great things to look forward to in the future.	Because it's a lot more fun to fly under the radar; let Derrick work in peace.
5 What does Big Ten basketball remind you of?	Legends and leaders ... on other teams.	Ambien, because it puts me right to ... zzzzz.	The madness that follows in March.	My glory days at U of I when the Illini went to the championship game.	Big Ten football—I'm just not sure if that's a compliment or an insult.

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Halfway where?

It's amazing how quickly time flies when you're not having as much fun as last season.

The halfway point of the NHL's regular season has arrived, and the Blackhawks know exactly where they stand: Not where they want to be.

In the all-out battle raging in the Western Conference for postseason spots, the Stanley Cup champs are just another contender after enduring a first half filled with inconsistent play.

The Hawks find themselves on the outside looking in on a playoff race that promises to go down to the wire. With 45 points off a 21-17-3 record, the Hawks are on pace for 90, which likely wouldn't be enough to secure one of the eight spots. Thus, the reigning champs might not reach the playoffs just one season after their greatest campaign in 49 years.

"It's crazy to think we're not going to be there," captain Jonathan Toews said of the playoffs.

"That's ridiculous. We want to stay healthy, and we hope things keep getting better. We're going to stay optimistic. We'll all be pretty disappointed, knowing what we have in this locker room, if we can't accomplish our goal of doing that."

Entering Tuesday, the Hawks were in ninth place and were among a group of four with 45 points. The good news is they're only two points out of fourth place. The bad news is they're only four points ahead of 13th place.

"We can't be satisfied [and] we can't be happy, that's for sure," leading scorer Patrick Sharp said of the first-half results. "You look at the Western Conference standings, and every night is a make-or-break game."

At this point last season, when they finished second to the Sharks in the conference, the Hawks had 59 points



Blackhawks forward Viktor Stalberg (right) shakes off the pursuit of Los Angeles' Brad Richardson during the Hawks' 4-3 win Monday. The victory broke a three-game losing streak for the Hawks. GETTY IMAGES

en route to a franchise-record 112.

The season before, when they reached the Western finals before falling to the Red Wings, they had 55 at the halfway mark.

"Everybody wants to compare to last year," defenseman Duncan Keith said.

"We had a Stanley Cup-winning team last year. I don't think we've reached our potential yet."

The main reason for optimism is with the return of Toews from a right shoulder injury during Monday night's 4-3 victory over the Kings in L.A., every

player on the Hawks' roster is healthy.

"It will be nice to have some predictability in our lines and some rotation so all of a sudden we're at that place where we know we can keep bringing it," coach Joel Quenneville said. "That's how you get to that next level."

GAME PLANNER

Bulls at
New Jersey
6 p.m.
Wednesday,
CSN

Wolves
vs. Toronto
7 p.m. Allstate
Arena

Blackhawks
vs. Dallas
7:30 p.m.
CSN+

BULLS 111, TORONTO 91

Luol Deng scored 24 points and Derrick Rose added 19 points and six assists as the Bulls blew out the Raptors 111-91 on Tuesday. Taj Gibson, who hadn't reached double figures in points or rebounds since Dec. 11, tallied 16 points and 14 boards.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

- » W. Virginia 67, DePaul 65
- » Indiana St. 72, Illinois St. 57
- » S. Illinois 72, Bradley 64

FINAL SCORE

- » Scott Paddock named new president of Chicagoland Speedway.
- » Naperville figure skater Evan Lysacek wins Thurman Munson Award.

Unless Blackhawks have second-half turnaround, they'll miss playoffs

TWIN ALL-STARS

The Blackhawks' Jonathan Toews and Duncan Keith are headed to the NHL All-Star Game.

The league announced Tuesday that Toews, a forward, and defenseman Keith were among the top vote-getters at their positions and, as a result, were selected to play in the Jan. 30 game in Raleigh, N.C.

"It's amazing," said Toews, who will make his second All-Star Game appearance. "It's tough to think I'd be there otherwise if it wasn't for the fan voting so I have the fans to thank for that. I'll try not to disappoint."

"It's an honor for me and it's a very exciting thing for anyone to go to that game," Toews said. "I enjoyed the last time I got to go [in 2009 in Montreal] and it should be fun this time, too."

Keith also will be making his second All-Star Game appearance, having played in the 2008 contest in Atlanta.

"When you get voted in, it's really special," Keith said. "You grow up as a kid and you're a fan of the game and you always want to be one of those guys."

metromix

Chicago Sketch Comedy Festival founder Brian Posen looks back at a decade of highs and lows

By Julia Borcherts

In 2002, when the musical Brian Posen planned to mount at the Theatre Building Chicago (now Stage773) failed to materialize, he called some comedian friends and satisfied his seven-week rental commitment to the theater by producing the inaugural SketchFest. Its success—2,000 people attended to see a rotating roster of 30 Chicago sketch comedy acts—encouraged Posen to bring it back annually, compacting the schedule into two weekends, expanding the lineups to simultaneously use all three of the complex's stages and eventually becoming the nation's largest festival of its kind with 10,000 attendees. He also changed its official name to The Chicago Sketch Comedy Festival after too much confusion with art of the handmade kind.

This year, the festival celebrates its 10th anniversary with 150-plus performances by more than 120 local, national and international acts. We checked in with Posen for his take on SketchFest's highest and lowest moments from the past decade.

JULIA BORCHERTS IS A METROMIX SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR. METROMIX@TRIBUNE.COM

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Stage773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave.
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Tickets: \$14 per show or \$150 for all-festival pass; 773-327-5252; chicago-sketchfest.com



BRIAN POSEN'S



The hardest thing for us about programming is that not everyone who applies is selected. In 2006, one of the groups that didn't get in picketed across the street. We figured that was a sign that we'd made it, if we were now "The Man."



At one of our "MasterSketch" panels, it was awesome to listen to Harold Ramis talk about how Chicago theater had shaped his career and how valuable the arts scene here in Chicago really is.

a little sketchy

SKETCHFEST PLANNER

It's a comedy-lover's dream: 110 groups and not a loser in the bunch. But if all those choices seem overwhelming, check out five of Metromix's don't-miss picks. —JESSICA GALLIART



7 P.M. FRIDAY Salsation

Don't miss the Latino troupe's show of highlights from its 2010 revues poking fun at tech-influenced pop culture, "Ctrl+Alt+Delete" and "It Takes a Village, People!"

7 P.M. SATURDAY The Backrow

The local group is 10 for 10 years with the festival, and it's looking back on a decade of "tragic misfortune" in its biggest show yet.



9 P.M. JAN. 14 Sweat

Rolling in all the way from Portland, Ore., this group's self-titled debut show received rave reviews. Don't miss your chance to say you saw them back when ...



HIGH-AND LOW-LIGHTS:



“

The great Chicago comic performer Jim Zulevic died in January 2006. Just the next week, GayCo dedicated their SketchFest performance to him—Jim was their “token straight guy” director. It was very moving.



“

For a few years, we did an event called “OctaSketch” on Mondays, where groups of performers put together a sketch show in eight hours. In 2005, Susan Messing was directing one of the groups. I was sent out to buy props for the various shows. Susan had me buying tripe, brains and other animal body parts.

“

“Sketchubator” is when the performers perform for each other after midnight, and almost anything goes. We’ve had a cold-cut battle, raw meat thrown—but I think the ultimate was Cowboy Dan bringing live chickens onto the stage.



7 P.M. JAN. 15 GayCo

Get a sneak peek at the LGBTQ favorite's upcoming shows, plus some best-of skits from its 14-year history.



8 P.M. JAN. 15 Blaire

The five women of the seasoned comedy troupe—a Sketch Comedy Festival favorite—reunite for the 10th anniversary of the festival.

“HILARIOUS!”

—The New York Post

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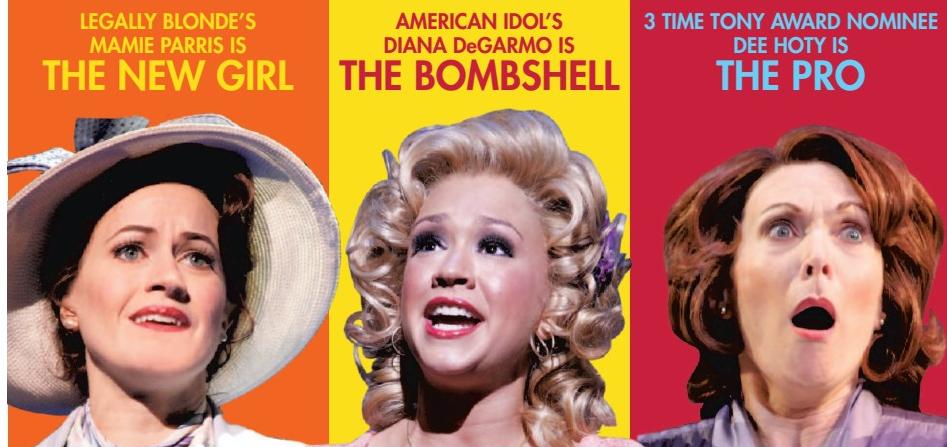
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- JANUARY 15TH - JIP JOP★ SCRATCH TRACK★ DJ DREW HANSON

- JANUARY 16TH - LIVE SALSA SUNDAYS ANGEL MELENDEZ TRIBUTE TO EL CANTANTE

- JANUARY 20TH - LOCAL 101 SHOW THE FRANTIC★ VILLIAN VS. VILLAIN★ DAVID COSTA★ THE PASSING

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1 The **home-style Japanese cooking** and insanely friendly staff at Sunshine Café (5449 N. Clark St.) in Andersonville. You'll feel like you're eating in someone's home, with the grandma bringing the dishes out of the kitchen herself. —DANA KAVAN

METROMIX FILE

2 The **Sexy Roll** (\$10.95) at Sushi Mon (2441 N. Clark St.). The name may be a bit ridiculous, but this roll is a cucumber fan's dream come true. The maki is wrapped in thin slices of the fruit for a refreshing crunch. —EMILY VAN ZANDT

3 **Hearty homemade ravioli**, tender chicken parm and habit-inducing meatballs, all at Salatino's (626 S. Racine Ave.), a laid-back Italian revamp of the old Aldino's in Little Italy. So what if the recipes came from Gennaro's, a neighborhood classic that closed last year? We're glad to chow time-tested, wallet-friendly food. —LISA BALDE

4 **Soft-serve at Grahamwich** (615 N. State St.). It sure looks like the sandwiches are the main event here, but we dig the cinnamon stick soft-serve topped with salted caramel, apples and crumbles of pie crust (\$4). Yum. —LISA ARNETT

5 **Offbeat movies** on the screens above the bar at Boiler Room (2210 N. California Ave.). Nothing like a few scenes from "Edward Scissorhands" to get a conversation going. —E.V.

JOIN THE RANDOMNESS!

What are you loving this week? Log onto metromix.com to send us your own Random Acts of Greatness. You might just spot your pick in a future issue.

WEDNESDAY BEER BOTTLE DEALS

BLACK DUCK TAVERN AND GRILLE \$3 select domestic bottles; 1800 N. Halsted St. 312-664-1801.	THE COACH HOUSE \$2 domestic bottles; 950 W. Wolfram St. 773-665-5660.	POITIN STIL \$2 domestic bottles; 1502 W. Jarvis Ave. 773-338-3285.
BLUE FROG BAR & GRILL \$3.50 Goose Island seasonal bottles; 676 N. La Salle St. 312-943-8900.	THE CURSE \$4 beer bottles; 3517 N. Clark St. 773-935-6694.	HALSTED HARP \$3 all bottles; 2138 N. Halsted St. 773-348-3665.
BRENDAN'S PUB \$3.50 Corona and Heineken bottles; 3169 N. Broadway Ave. 773-929-2929.	FAITH & WHISKEY \$6 select 40-ounce beer bottles; 1365 W. Fullerton Ave. 773-248-9119.	KINCADe'S \$1 domestic bottles; 950 W. Armitage Ave. 773-348-0010.
FION WINE & SPIRITS \$3.50 craft and import bottles; 426 W. Diversey Pkwy. 773-549-5400.	MARY'S ATTIC \$3 domestic bottles; 5400 N. Clark St. 773-784-6969.	THE SMOKE DADDY RHYTHM AND BAR-B-QUE \$2 Miller bottles; 1804 W. Division St. 773-772-6656.
CHIEF O'NEILL'S PUB \$3 Moosehead Lager bottles; 3471 N. Elston Ave. 773-473-5263.	OLD TOWN PUB \$3.50 Bud Light bottles; 1339 N. Wells St. 312-266-6789.	WEATHER MARK TAVERN \$2 domestic bottles; 1503 S. Michigan Ave. 312-588-0230.
FLO \$2.50 Miller High Life		

BAR-GUMENTS

SETTLING AGE-OLD, BAR-BASED DISAGREEMENTS ONE ARGUMENT AT A TIME

What is a bar-gument, you say? For as long as there have been watering holes, there have been disagreements. Some people prefer martinis with gin, some with vodka. Bar-guments is here to settle some longstanding bar conflicts once and for all.

This week: Which is the better brew—light or dark beer?



VS



LIGHT BEER

Beer is not meant to be a dessert—this, I'm a firm believer in. The last thing I'd want at the end of a long day of dreaming about an ice-cold, thirst-quenching

beer to wash away all my troubles is to have my mouth flooded with a frothy, bitter and overwhelmingly heavy dark brew. Beer already is more likely to fill you up faster than a cocktail, so why punish yourself by filling up even faster with a dark beer? Lower in calories, easier going down and less likely to leave you feeling like a bloated beer boob, light beer definitely reigns victorious. —**Jessica Galliart**



DARK BEER

There is none more satisfying than the mysterious murkiness and malty flavor of a dark brew. Bring me your smoked porters, your coffee stouts—I'll take them any day over the hoppiness of a light-hued brew. Not only do dark beers make better dessert (add a scoop of ice cream to a pint of stout and you'll see what I mean), but studies have shown that dark beer can have the same heart-healthy benefits as red wine and chocolate. So drink dark, I say!

—**Lisa Arnett**

LAST WEEK'S RESULTS:

Should you go all out or stay low-key on New Year's Eve?

WINNER!
STAY LOW-KEY
61%

GO ALL OUT: **39%**

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music

JANUARY CONCERT GUIDE

Now hear this

**24 big shows
to start the
year right**
By Andy Downing

Though Chicago's frigid January often deters touring bands from visiting the city, a handful of big names (Weezer, Wu-Tang Clan) have opted to brave the elements. A number of excellent local acts (Chaperone, Verbow) thankfully will be out in force too. For full event info, visit metromix.com. ANDY DOWNING IS A METROMIX SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR. METROMIX@TRIBUNE.COM

Chaperone!
Jan. 7 at Hideout

Many of the Chicago crew's songs, which veer between creaky back-porch sing-alongs and shambolic '60s pop, find 27-year-old band founder Shaun Paul channeling his inner-Don Draper, in a struggle to contain the past.

Pieta Brown
Jan. 8 at Space

The Iowa-born singer-songwriter swings effortlessly between folk, country and pastoral rock, all centered around her casual, comforting voice.

Wu-Tang Clan
Jan. 8 at
Congress Theater

While a number of rappers from the long-running Staten Island crew still flourish individually (take a bow, Ghostface), the group remains a more menacing presence when its members form like Voltron.

**Laurie
Anderson**
Jan. 11 at Harris Theater

The genre-bending artist returns for the Chicago premiere of her latest performance piece, "Delusion."


Weezer

Jan. 7-8 at Aragon
While Weezer's recent output often has been spotty at best, this current Memories Tour promises the cream of the crop from "The Blue Album" one night and longtime fan-favorite "Pinkerton" the next.

Besnard Lakes
Jan. 13 at Lincoln Hall

Epic, moody rock from a Canadian crew whose songs roll and pitch like a monstrous warship lumbering out to sea after dark.

The Concretes
Jan. 15 at Schubas

Despite sporting a lineup that can swell to as many as eight members, this Swedish collective still sounds chilly and austere on pulsating, electro-tinged nuggets like "All Day."

Flatlanders
Jan. 20 at Space

A trio of legendary country-rock singer-songwriters—Joe Ely, Butch Hancock and Jimmie Dale Gilmore—make music that mirrors the Texas landscape: alternately harsh, beautiful and unforgiving.

Liz Phair
Jan. 22 at Metro

Assuming Phair sticks to her early material, this show could surprise. If she starts in on tracks from the


Freddie Gibbs
Jan. 14 at Metro

Born and raised in Gary, Ind., and now residing in Southern California, the ferocious MC emerged as one of the breakout stars of this summer's Pitchfork Music Festival with his gritty inner-city tales.

Lauryn Hill Jan. 20 at House of Blues

A rare live appearance from the one-time Fugee, whose sporadic performances, public breakdowns and complete lack of new material (she hasn't released a proper album since 1998) threatened to turn her into the Howard Hughes of soul/R&B.

**Twin Shadow** Jan. 14 at Schubas

George Lewis Jr., best known as his stage moniker, Twin Shadow, loaded his 2010 debut "Forget" with spooky, synth-pop gems that deftly straddle the line between art rock and new wave.

**Marketa Irglova** Jan. 13 at Schubas

Here's a chance to hear one half of The Swell Season in an intimate setting. Consider this the set her character in "Once" might have produced after parting ways with Glen Hansard's Irish busker.

Lissie

Jan. 22 at Lincoln Hall

On her debut EP, Rock Island native Lissie (born Elisabeth Maurus) came across like a roots-rock siren, her honeyed voice curling around each word like smoke swirling over a campfire.

Nellie McKay

Jan. 27 at Space

Much like her birthplace of New York City, this quirky singer-songwriter

remains a mash-up of cultures and styles, flirting with everything from jazz to rock to Broadway-style show tunes.

Jayhawks

Jan. 27-28 at the Vic

After a five-year hiatus, the alt-country rockers return with a pair of reissues ("Hollywood Town Hall" and "Tomorrow the Green Grass") and talk of a new album surfacing as early as 2011.

?uestlove
Jan. 28 at Smart Bar

Best known as the drummer for hip-hop's best live band The Roots, ?uestlove likely will demonstrate his wide-ranging and impeccable musical tastes in this rare DJ appearance.

California Wives

Jan. 28 at Subterranean

The Chicago quartet swings comfortably between fuzzy dance cuts and moodier, shoegaze-anthems.

Tapes 'N Tapes
Jan. 29 at Lincoln Hall

The former blog buzz band soldiers on with a new album ("Outside") and a familiar, fractured indie-rock sound.

Lyrics Born
Jan. 29 at Abbey Pub

The Tokyo-born rapper, who cut his teeth in the mid-'90s, Bay-Area scene, shines on retro-cool cuts such as the funky "I Changed My Mind."

Kirkland
Jan. 29 at Metro

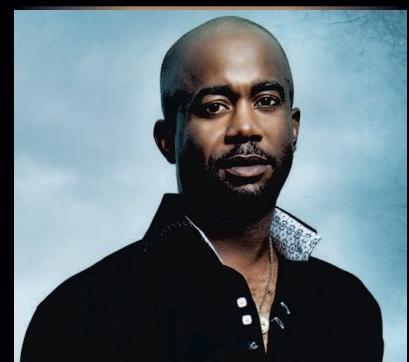
A sure-to-be electric show from the 2010 Metromix Rock 'n' Vote winners, headlined by '06 winners The Lifeline.

Handsome Furs Jan. 15 at Lincoln Hall

This Canadian synth-pop duo sounds like it belongs on the soundtrack to a long-lost John Hughes/Brat Pack film.

THE VENUE**CHUBBY CHECKER**

Friday, January 21

**DARIUS RUCKER**

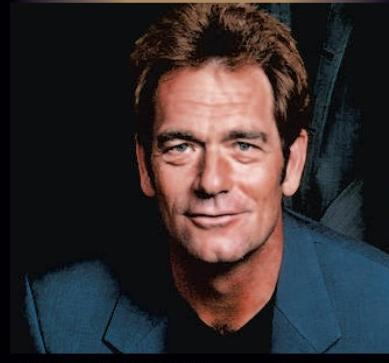
Sunday, January 23

**AIR SUPPLY**

Friday, February 4

**JACKIE MASON**

Saturday, March 12

**HUEY LEWIS AND THE NEWS**

Friday, March 18

**LEA SALONGA**

Saturday, March 19

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YOUR ON-SALE CONCERT GUIDE

**ON SALE 10 A.M. SATURDAY**

State Radio, Saturday, April 2 (\$21, all ages) at Vic Theatre.

ON SALE NOON FRIDAY

Bobby Conn and Band, Cave, Thursday, Feb. 10 (\$10, 21+) at Schubas.

Destroyer, The War on Drugs, Tuesday, March 29 (\$15, 21+) at Lincoln Hall.

Fort Frances, Sunday, Feb. 20 (\$10-\$12, all ages) at Schubas.

Ari Hest, Friday, March 11 (\$15-\$18, early show: all ages; late show: 21+) at Schubas.

Robbie Fulks interprets Michael Jackson, Friday, March 18 (\$15, 21+) at Lincoln Hall.

Jill Sobule, John Doe, Wednesday, March 23 (\$20, 21+) at Lincoln Hall.

Sharon Van Etten, Saturday, April 9 (\$14, 18+) at Lincoln Hall.

ON SALE 10 A.M. SATURDAY

Alexi Murdoch, Monday, Feb. 21 (\$17-\$20, 21+) at Lincoln Hall.

at Double Door.

Brian Rabbit, The Minneapolis Henrys, Monday, March 7 (\$5, 21+) at Double Door.**Coley Kennedy and the Warm Regards**, Sunday, Feb. 20 (\$5, 21+) at Double Door.**Gear Daddies**, Saturday, Feb. 12 (\$25, 21+) at Double Door.**Great American Taxi**, Saturday, March 12 (\$12, 21+) at Double Door.**The Greenhorns, Hacienda**, Friday, March 25 (\$12, 21+) at Double Door.**Hemi, Trials, Along the Parallel, Armored Assault**, Tuesday, April 5 (\$5, 21+) at Double Door.**Marty Party, Freq Nasty, Opiuo**, Wednesday, March 9 (\$15, 21+) at Double Door.**► WEDNESDAY CONCERTS****ALFONSO PONTICELLI AND SWING GITAN**9 p.m. \$6. Green Mill,
4802 N. Broadway.
773-878-5552.**DEAD CELEBRITY**

10 p.m. Free. The Whistler, 2421 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-227-3530.

FRANK CATALANO SEXTET2 a.m. Free. Green Mill,
4802 N. Broadway.
773-281-4444.**GRANDPA LIVINGS-TON, CHEER UP MOON CAT, SIMPLE-TON AND CITYFOLK, OSVALDO PAESE**8 p.m. \$7. Elbo Room,
2871 N. Lincoln Ave.
773-549-5549.**HOLYOKE**8:30 p.m. \$8. Beat Kitchen, 2100 W. Belmont Ave.
773-281-4444.**KEVIN O'DONNELL'S EPIPHANY**

9 p.m. \$5. Double Door,

SPECTACULAR8 p.m. \$8. Martyrs',
3855 N. Lincoln Ave.
773-404-9869.**LIVE BAND KARAOKE, CASTOR AND POLLUX**

8 p.m. Free. Reggie's Music Joint, 2105 S. State St. 312-949-0120.

LURING THIEVES, THUNDER DRIVER, PLASTIC BOOTS, SIOUM

9 p.m. \$5. Double Door,

1572 N. Milwaukee Ave.
773-489-3160.**RANA SANTACRUZ**
8:30 p.m. \$5 suggested donation. Old Town School of Folk Music, 4544 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-728-6000.**VELCRO LEWIS AND HIS 100 PROOF BAND, STRYCHNINE, CASUAL ENCOUNTER**
9:30 p.m. \$8. Empty Bottle, 1035 N. Western Ave. 773-276-3600.

DINING DEALS AND EVENTS THROUGH SUNDAY

* = THIS WEEK ONLY

ACCANTO

Wed.: Sun.: \$30 four-course dinner, \$50 five-course dinner; 2171 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-227-2727.

ANGELINA RISTORANTE

Wed.: Neighborhood Night. 20 percent off entire bill for Lakeview residents; 11 a.m. Sat., 10 a.m. Sun.: \$21 Champagne brunch; 3561 N. Broadway. 773-935-5933.

BRANCH 27

Thu.: \$27 three-course menu; 1371 W. Chicago Ave. 312-850-2700.

C-HOUSE

11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Wed.-Fri.: \$15 three-course lunch; 166 E. Superior St. Affinia Chicago Hotel. 312-523-0923.

CHALKBOARD

Wed.: \$25 fried chicken and Champagne dinner; 4343 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-477-7144.

DAVANTI ENOTECA

Thu.: \$3 beers; Fri.: \$10 three-cheese plates, \$12 four-cheese plates, \$15 five-cheese plates; Sun.: No corkage fee; 1359 W. Taylor St. 312-226-5550.

DELEECHE

Wed.: Half-price bottles of wine; 4004 N. Southport Ave. 773-325-1710.

FEAST

Wed.: \$25 prix-fixe menu with one glass of wine; 1616 N. Damen Ave. 773-772-7100.

HB HOME BISTRO

Wed.: \$30 three-course dinner; 3404 N. Halsted St. 773-661-0299.

JAPONAIS

Wed., Sun.: \$7 Absolut cocktails and select appetizers (5-8 p.m.); 600 W. Chicago Ave. 312-822-9600.

LA MADIA

9-11:15 p.m. Wed.-Thu.,

Sun.: \$20 late-night prix-fixe dinner; 59 W. Grand Ave. 312-329-0400.

LA PETITE FOLIE

5-6:30 p.m. Wed.-Sun.: \$32 three-course menu; 1504 E. 55th St. 773-493-1394.

*** LOCKWOOD RESTAURANT**

7 p.m.: Regional Wine Journey: Argentina

and Chile. Wine director Sasa Sinanagic discusses the history and native fermentation processes of wine regions around the world. Includes

wine, charcuterie and cheese. \$25. RSVP recommended; 17 E. Monroe St. Palmer House Hilton, lobby level. 312-917-3404.

LOKAL

Wed.: Pierogis After Dark. \$5 martinis, \$10 all-you-can-eat pierogis (10 p.m.-12 a.m.); 1904 W. North

Ave. 773-904-8113.

MARKET

6 p.m. Thu.: \$25 three-course dinner. On the menu: Amish chicken pot pie, grilled mahi mahi tacos, blueberry pie and more. Select bottles of wine also available for \$25. Reservations required; 1113 W. Randolph St. 312-646-8144.

MK

Wed.: Wine on Wednesdays. \$25 for three glasses of wine and three menu tastes; Thu.: \$15 dessert and cocktail; 868 N. Franklin St. 312-482-9179.

NANA

3-10 p.m. Sun.: Sunday Supper Series. \$22 family-style dinner. Available for two or more; 3267 S. Halsted St. 312-929-2486.

PARK 52

Thu.: \$3 all beer bottles, \$7 select cocktails and

DINING PICK OF THE WEEK



Crumbs grand opening and cupcake giveaway
2nd Ward Alderman Bob Fioretti hosts a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Chicago's first location of Crumbs, a New York bakery made famous for its gourmet cupcakes. The first 1,000 customers score a free cupcake. Noon Friday. 303 W. Madison St. 312-263-6500.

appetizers;
5201 S. Harper Ave.
773-241-5200.

215 N. Clinton St.
312-382-8300.

TAKASHI RESTAURANT
Wed.: \$36 four-course prix fixe; Sun.: \$7-\$8 appetizers, \$12-\$13 select noodle menu; 1952 N. Damen Ave.

773-772-6170.

TAXIM
Wed.-Thu., Sun.: \$10 wine flights; 1558 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-252-1558.



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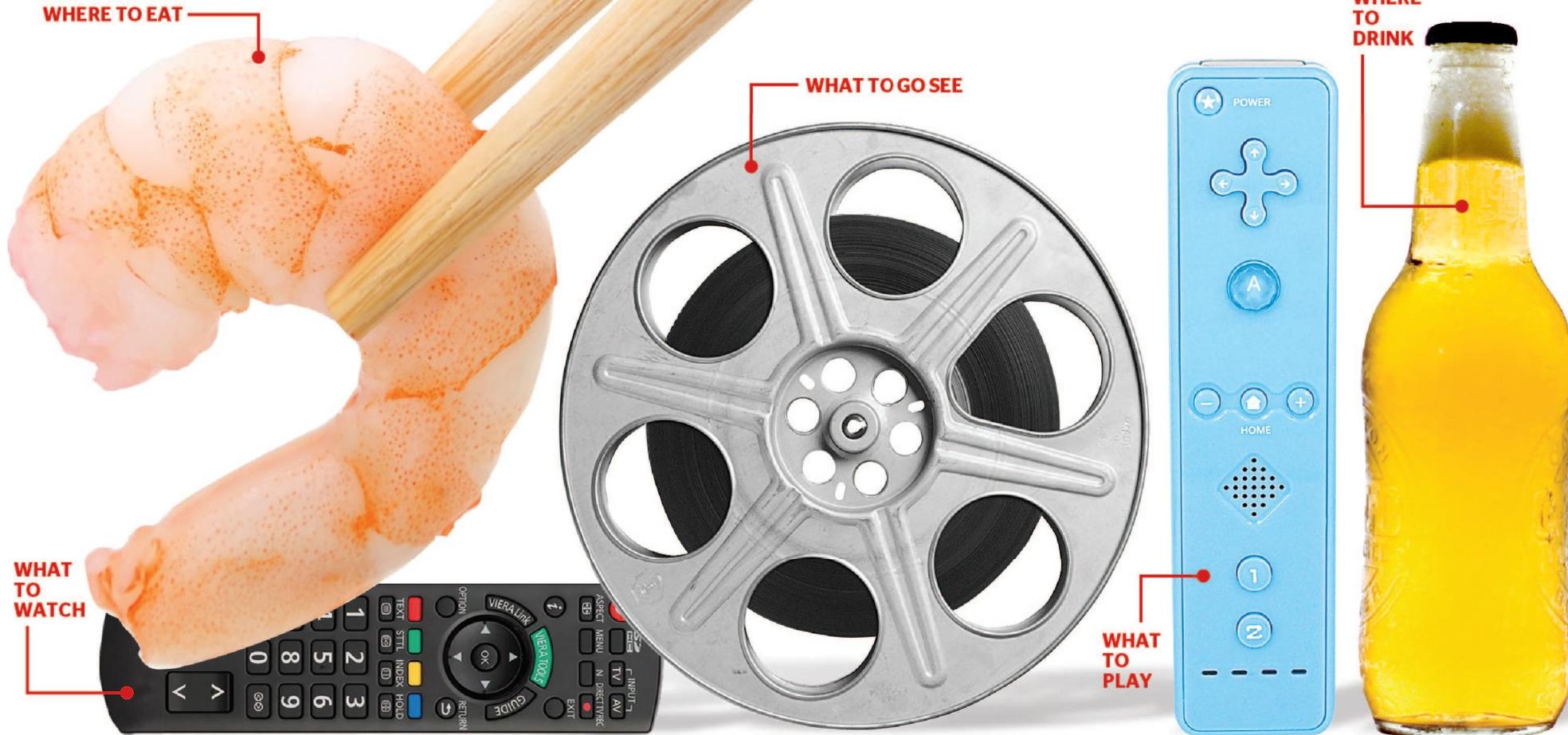
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ENTERTAINMENT PREVIEW

Already looking to amend your 2011 resolutions? Here's a good one: Stay plugged into the entertainment scene with new Chicago-set TV shows and movies, coming-soon hot bars and restaurants, plus big events and concerts. By the end of the year, even if you didn't shed those pesky 20 pounds, you can say you tried something new. Here's what should be on your radar now and what deserves to be remembered into the fall and next winter.

LISA ARNETT IS THE METROMIX DINING PRODUCER, MATT PAIS IS THE METROMIX MOVIES AND MUSIC PRODUCER, RYAN SMITH IS A REDEYE SPECIAL CONTRIBUTOR, EMILY VAN ZANDT IS THE METROMIX NIGHTLIFE PRODUCER, CURT WAGNER IS THE REDEYE FEATURES EDITOR.

BAR: Open now

Maude's Liquor Bar
840 W. Randolph St.

Look for this two-story West Loop bar and eatery from the owners of Gilt Bar and Curio to feature a French-influenced menu including oysters and tartars. The venue is split between

a food-focused downstairs and an upstairs bar where bartenders will mix up more complicated cocktails.

BAR: Jan. 13

Public House
400 N. State St.

Expect Bull & Bear's beer focus to influence this River North spot from the same owners.

The venue, which threw a preview party on New Year's Eve, features booths equipped with self-service beer taps and chilled liquor on tap instead of bottle service.

MOVIE: Jan. 14

'The Dilemma'

Here's a dilemma: Vince Vaughn hasn't made a funny movie in years. Hopefully this Chicago-set comedy, which has its world premiere at the AMC River East (322 E. Illinois St.) on Thursday, will reverse the trend.



SAVE THE DATES

Fill your calendar with these must-know events

Jan. 16
68th Golden Globes Awards

Feb. 10
Chicago Auto Show

Feb. 13
53rd Grammy Awards

Feb. 18-27
Chicago Restaurant Week

Feb. 27
83rd Academy Awards

March 18-20
Chicago Comic & Entertainment Expo

April 25-May 1
Chicago Improv Festival

BAR: Jan. 20**Frontier**

1072 N. Milwaukee Ave.
This West Town bar from the crew behind Lottie's Pub and The Pony could be a new favorite warm-weather spot with its planned beer garden. Inside, things stay casual with a gastro-pub menu and mountain lodge theme.

DINING: Late January/early February**Paris Club**

59 W. Hubbard St.
If you avoided Brasserie Jo for fear of being the youngest one noshing on steak frites, you're in luck. Hub 51 owners Jerrod and RJ Melman have you in mind for their modern French bistro with fun features such as on-tap wine.

TV: 8 p.m. Feb. 7**'The Chicago Code'**

Chicago is a major character in native son Shawn Ryan's new police drama, which was filmed entirely in the Windy City. Jennifer Beals (another Chicago native) plays the new police chief who teams with her old partner, a rule-bending detective played by Jason Clarke, to challenge corruption in city government.

DINING: Early 2011**Next and Aviary**

953-955 W. Fulton Market

The world watches as the Alinea team works toward opening time-traveling restaurant Next and neighboring

avant-garde cocktail lounge Aviary in the West Loop. While Aviary will reinterpret cocktails with techniques both futuristic (rapid freezing via super-chiller) and tried-and-true (aging booze in barrels), Next will sell tickets for its dinners that pinpoint a particular time and place, starting with Paris in 1906. Opening dates have not been released, but fans can follow @NextRestaurant and @AviaryCocktails on Twitter for updates.

VIDEO GAMES: Feb. 22**'Bulletstorm'**

(Xbox 360, PS3, PC)

EA's upcoming first-person shooter promises to obliterate our idea of what "over-the-top" action is all about. Your drunken space pirate hero has an arsenal of outrageously huge guns and combat moves used to defeat his enemies.

DINING: Late February**GT Fish & Oyster**

531 N. Wells St.

Following Stephanie Izard's white-hot Girl



& the Goat, the Boka Group's next venture is this River North oyster bar with Boka chef Giuseppe Tentori at the helm (hence his initials in the name). A glassy facade will give Grand Avenue passers-by a peek at groups chowing shareable plates o' seafood.

MUSIC: Feb. 28**Lady Gaga**

at United Center

Put on your meat dress: The pop star returns to again turn the stage

into an over-the-top theater production and the music world into some kind of self-empowerment glamstravaganza. Gaga's new album, "Born This Way," arrives May 23.

MUSIC: March 8
Lupe Fiasco's 'Lasers'

(Read this in annoyed, nasal voice): Fiiiiinally. After numerous delays, Atlantic Records at last drops the Chicago rapper's follow-up to 2007's "The Cool." Can he elevate his game like Kanye and Rhymefest did in '10?

VIDEO GAMES: March 2011**Nintendo 3DS Handheld Gaming System**

Nintendo's highly anticipated new handheld system displays images in three dimensions sans dorky glasses. The effect is adjustable via

**MORE ONLINE!**

For more on 2011 restaurant and bar openings—including Homaru Cantu's new restaurant—stay tuned for updates on The Countdown on metromix.com/countdown.



a depth slider, which also makes it possible to view games in boring old 2-D if your eyes begin to feel like they might melt.

TV: Summer**Steven Spielberg TV**

The legendary filmmaker helped create two upcoming sci-fi series. In "Terra Nova," a band of humans jump to our prehistoric past to save Earth. Fox will show a sneak peek in May, then launch the show in the fall. TNT plans a June launch for "Falling Skies," its Spielberg project about humans fighting an alien invasion.



after the Ramones' lyrics, "Gabba Gabba Hey," but this River West restaurant and tavern from former Lockwood chef de cuisine James Toland still will be loud, lively and serve free meals to touring bands.

DINING: March**Del Toro**

2133 S. Halsted St.

Nightwood and Skylark will score a new neighbor when this sit-down taco restaurant and tequila bar moves in next door to Pilsen booze shop F & R Liquors. Everardo Garcia, whose family owns F & R, tells us his mother's traditional recipes for carne asada and barbacoa tacos will take center stage. If you can't wait that long for a taste of new tacos, look for **Taco Joint** (1699 N. Halsted St.) opening in Lincoln Park in mid-January courtesy of Zocalo's Edgar Castaneda.

MOVIE: July 1**'Transformers: Dark of the Moon'**

The title's even worse than "Revenge of the Fallen," but the largely Chicago-filmed Part 3 must be better than the awful Part 2. Megan Fox or Rosie Huntington-Whiteley, who cares? We just can't wait to see those Wacker Drive explosions.

VIDEO GAMES: 4th quarter 2011**'Diablo III' (PC)**

Nope, Blizzard's not done dusting off its old PC franchises. This year gamers get the first Diablo release in more than a decade.

**TV: October, most likely Halloween weekend****'The Walking Dead' Season 2**

When AMC launched this thriller on Halloween night in 2010, viewers made it the network's biggest hit. What's in store for Season 2? We'll get 13 episodes and finally learn what Jenner whispered in Rick's ear before he blew up the Centers for Disease Control. Watch for one-handed redneck Merle, too.

DINING: Midsummer**Takashi Yagihashi's new noodle bar**

116 W. Hubbard St.

River North will get a taste of Takashi Yagihashi, the owner of Michelin-starred Takashi, when this yet-to-be-named Japanese small-plate, sushi and noodle spot opens this summer.

June 12

65th Tony Awards

June 24-July 4

Taste of Chicago, Grant Park

June 26

Pride Parade

July 5

U2, Soldier Field

July

Pitchfork, Union Park

Aug. 5-7

Lollapalooza, Grant Park

Aug. 12-14

Northalsted Market Days

Aug. 20-21

Air and Water Show

September

28th MTV Video Music Awards

Mid-September

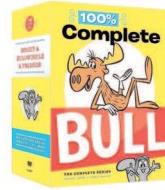
63rd Emmy Awards



TV ABC's Wednesday comedy lineup

Beginning at 7 p.m.

"Modern Family" (8 p.m.) gets most of the attention, but ABC consistently delivers almost two hours of laughs on Wednesdays with "The Middle" (7 p.m.) and "Cougar Town" (8:30 p.m.) as well. Having said that, this week's highlight likely will be the "Modern Family" episode "Slow Down Your Neighbors," in which Mitchell and Cameron spy a mysterious neighbor (guest star James Marsden, left) taking a dip in their hot tub. It's not long before they fall under his spell. Notice I didn't mention "Better With You" (7:30 p.m.)? That's because it does not live up to the others. CURT WAGNER, REDEYE



DVD

'Rocky & Bullwinkle & Friends: The Complete Series'

Available now; \$65.99 at amazon.com

The silliness of this animated classic can captivate young viewers. As those viewers mature, they begin to see the smart jokes that made this a landmark program. It's not only the misadventures of Rocky and Bullwinkle that are so entertaining. The "Peabody's Improbable History," "Fractured Fairy Tales" and "Aesop and Son" stories also are superb. The 18-disc DVD set includes all 163 episodes; it's one set that definitely should be in your collection. RICK BENTLEY, MCT



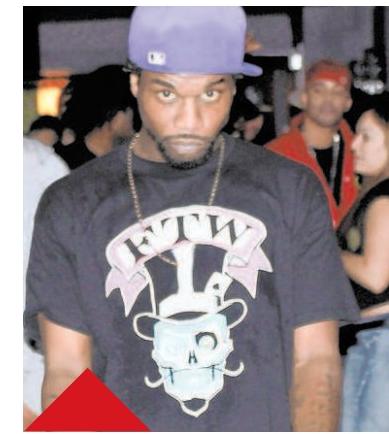
JEWELRY

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You can never have too many statement necklaces. They elevate even the most boring and tired outfit to fresh and fun. And nothing is more fun than a necklace that calls to mind the Caribbean and tropical getaways! Let's face it, in this cold, we'll take any sign of warmth we can get.

JOANNA GUSTAFSON FOR REDEYE



TRACK-OFF

'This is That'

P Dolla Jillz (@dollaillz)

» Listen at redeyechicago.com/kylesfiles

Over a rugged, undulating beat that sounds like an off-roading SUV, P Dolla Jillz killed this week's Kyles Files track-off. The local lyricist drew 75 percent of the online vote with the boastful "This is That," smashing Swagga's "Holla At Me." Vote every Monday in the online contest that puts local music first. KYRA KYLES, REDEYE

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 ■ **Little Fockers** (PG-13) 1:40, 2:45, 4:10, 5:15, 6:40, 7:45, 9:10, 10:15
 ■ **True Grit** (PG-13) ◆ 1:50, 4:35, 7:25, 10:10
 ■ **Tron: Legacy 3D** (PG) 1:15, 4:05, 7:00, 9:55
 ■ **How Do You Know** (PG-13) 1:30, 4:20, 7:05, 9:50
 ■ **AMC Independent The Fighter** (R) 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:05
 ■ **The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader 3D** (PG) 1:55, 4:25, 6:50, 9:25
 ■ **The Tourist** (PG-13) 4:55, 7:30, 10:00
 ■ **Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1** (PG-13) 1:45 P.M.
 ■ **Rabbit Hole** (PG-13) 1:55, 4:40, 7:20, 9:50
 ■ **Black Swan** (R) 1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:45
 ■ **The King's Speech** (R) 1:00, 1:30, 3:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:20, 10:00
 ■ **Somewhere** (R) 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:40
 ■ **I Love You Phillip Morris** (R) 1:50, 4:45, 7:30, 10:00

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 ■ **Rabbit Hole** (PG-13) 1:55, 4:40, 7:20, 9:50
 ■ **Black Swan** (R) 1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 5:00, 7:00, 8:00, 9:45
 ■ **The King's Speech** (R) 1:00, 1:30, 3:45, 4:30, 7:15, 9:20, 10:00
 ■ **Somewhere** (R) 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:40
 ■ **I Love You Phillip Morris** (R) 1:50, 4:45, 7:30, 10:00

CITY NORTH 14 (REGAL)
2600 N. Western Ave.
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 ■ **The Green Hornet** (PG-13) Advance Tickets Available
 ■ **The Dilemma** (PG-13) Advance Tickets Available
 ■ **The Metropolitan Opera: Don Carlo Encore** (NR) 6:30

DAVIS THEATRE (VALUE)
4614 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago
(773) 784-0893

 ■ **Little Fockers** (PG-13) 5:45, 7:45, 9:45
 ■ **True Grit** (PG-13) 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
 ■ **Black Swan** (R) 5:00, 7:15, 9:30
 ■ **The Tourist** (PG-13) 5:15, 7:30, 9:50

FORD CITY 14 (AMC)

S. Cicero at 76th., Chicago
(888) AMC-4FUN

Show times change daily

■ **Gulliver's Travels** (PG) ◆ 11:10, 1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 8:00, 10:20
 ■ **Little Fockers** (PG-13) ◆ 10:45, 1:05, 3:25, 5:50, 8:10, 10:30
 ■ **Tron: Legacy** (PG) ◆ 10:50, 12:15, 1:40, 3:05, 4:30, 5:55, 7:20, 9:00, 10:10
 ■ **True Grit** (PG-13) 11:00, 1:35, 4:10, 6:55, 9:35
 ■ **How Do You Know** (PG-13) 11:05, 1:55, 4:40, 7:30, 10:15
 ■ **AMC Independent The Fighter** (R) 10:55, 1:35, 4:25, 5:50, 7:05, 8:30, 9:50
 ■ **Yogi Bear** (PG) ◆ 11:15, 1:25, 3:55, 6:15, 8:35
 ■ **The Tourist** (PG-13) 11:20, 1:20, 1:45, 5:15, 7:09, 9:40
 ■ **The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader 3D** (PG) 11:25, 2:00, 4:45, 7:25, 10:00
 ■ **Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1** (PG-13) 1:10, 2:40
 ■ **Tangled** (PG) 11:40, 2:20, 5:05, 7:35, 9:55
 ■ **Unstoppable** (PG-13) 11:45, 2:10, 4:35, 7:00, 9:30

GENE SISKEL FILM CENTER

164 State Street
(312) 846-2800

■ **The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo** (R) 6:30 P.M.
 ■ **Inside Job** (PG-13) 8:00 P.M.
 ■ **Heartbreaker** (NR) 6:00 P.M.

BURLESQUE

2646 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago
(773) 252-0628

 ■ **Burlesque** (PG-13) 2:00, 4:30, 7:10, 9:50
 ■ **Megamind** (PG) 1:00, 2:50, 4:40, 6:30, 8:20, 10:10
 ■ **The Next Three Days** (PG-13) 1:40, 4:20, 7:00, 9:40
 ■ **Faster** (R) 1:30, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30

MUSIC BOX

3733 N. Southport, Chicago
(773) 871-6604

■ **Casino Jack** (R) 5:00, 7:20, 9:40
 ■ **Rare Exports: A Christmas Tale** (R) 7:40 P.M.
 ■ **All Good Things** (R) 5:30, 9:30

PIPER'S ALLEY (AMC)

1608 N. Wells, Chicago
(888) AMC-4FUN

Show times change daily

■ **AMC Independent Tees Maar Khan** (NR) 1:45, 4:40, 7:30
 ■ **AMC Independent Fair Game** (PG-13) 2:15, 4:50, 7:20
 ■ **AMC Independent Inside Job** (PG-13) 2:35, 5:15, 7:55
 ■ **The Social Network** (PG-13) 2:20, 5:00, 7:40

RIVER EAST 21 (AMC)

322 E. Illinois Street, Chicago
(888) AMC-4FUN

Show times change daily

■ **AMC Independent The King's Speech** (R) 10:35, 1:15, 4:15, 7:10, 10:10
 ■ **AMC Independent The King's Speech** (R) ◆ 11:05, 1:55, 4:55, 8:00, 10:05
 ■ **The Metropolitan Opera: Don Carlo Encore** (NR) ◆ 6:30 P.M.
 ■ **Little Fockers** (PG-13) 10:10, 4:15, 11:45, 12:45, 1:25, 2:20, 3:25, 4:10, 5:45, 7:30, 8:30, 11:15
 ■ **Gulliver's Travels** (PG) 10:15, 12:30, 2:35, 3:00, 5:15, 7:45, 9:15, 10:05
 ■ **True Grit** (PG-13) ◆ 10:40, 11:40, 1:35, 2:35, 4:25, 5:35, 7:15, 9:15
 ■ **AMC Independent The Fighter** (R) 10:55, 1:35, 4:25, 5:50, 7:05, 8:30, 9:50
 ■ **Yogi Bear** (PG) 11:20, 1:20, 1:45, 4:45, 7:45, 9:45
 ■ **The Tourist** (PG-13) 12:20, 2:20, 5:50, 7:20, 7:50, 10:25
 ■ **The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader 3D** (PG) 12:30, 2:35, 4:45, 6:30, 7:30, 9:30, 11:15
 ■ **Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1** (PG-13) 1:20, 3:20, 5:05, 6:25, 8:15, 10:15
 ■ **Tangled** (3D) (PG) 10:00, 11:00, 1:00, 2:00, 4:00, 5:05, 7:00, 8:10, 10:00
 ■ **How Do You Know** (PG-13) 11:20, 2:15, 5:10
 ■ **AMC Independent The Fighter** (R) 11:10, 1:50, 2:45, 4:45, 7:25, 9:25
 ■ **Yogi Bear** (PG) 11:55, 2:10
 ■ **Tron: Legacy** (PG) 4:30, 7:30, 10:40
 ■ **Yogi Bear 3D** (PG) ◆ 10:25, 12:15, 2:45, 5:20, 7:45, 9:10
 ■ **True Grit** (3D) (PG) 12:20, 1:20, 2:20, 4:20, 6:20, 8:20, 10:20
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 ■ **Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1** (PG-13) 1:20, 3:20, 5:05, 6:25, 8:15, 10:15
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 ■ **Tron: Legacy** (3D) (PG) 1:20, 2:20, 4:20, 6:20, 8:20, 10:20
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 ■ **The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader 3D** (PG) 1:20,

Ski goggle hat
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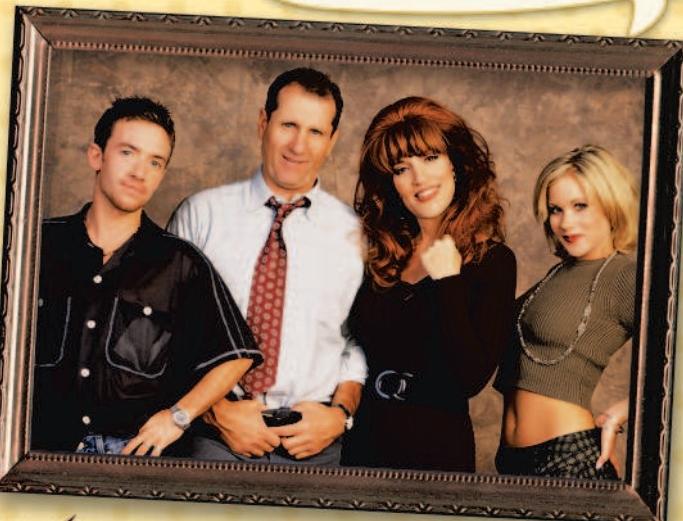
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Model Year End Close Out Extended

Al Piemonte Ford announced the extension of their December Model Year End Closeout Sale. The annual event always draws hundreds of last minute bargain seekers to the giant Melrose Park auto dealership. This year's sale has been bigger than ever, according to Al Piemonte, dealership owner.

"We've priced every remaining 2010 Ford car, truck, van and SUV at rock bottom rates. Our sales managers and our sales consultants have been given incentives to sell as many vehicles as possible. The success of the December event is causing us to extend it."

Piemonte went on to explain, "This is the only time of year that we actually have overlapping sales events. In addition to the Model Year End Closeout Sale, we have also kicked off our New Year/New Car Event. If you can't find a deal here, you better give up. It's that good of a sale!"



**Al
Piemonte**

If the number of calls coming into the switchboard have been any indication, Piemonte's comments are right on target. The phones have been ringing off the hook since the event started in mid December. Call volume has been so brisk that Piemonte urges shoppers to come in soon while there's still a good selection. "When the last 2010 is gone, this sale is over and that could happen any time."

The dealership is located at 25th and North Avenue in Melrose Park and can be reached by phone at 888-485-6776.

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2009 FORD FOCUS SE Sangria Red Metallic, 4DR, Auto. #XP15424 \$10,677*	2009 KIA RIO LX Tropical Red, 4DR, Auto. #XP15401 \$10,777*	2005 FORD ESCAPE XLS Red Fire Metallic, 4DR, 4x4, Auto. #P15418 \$10,777*	2009 FORD FOCUS SE Brilliant Silver Metallic, 4DR, Auto. #XP15425 \$10,977*	2003 BUICK LESABRE CUSTOM White, 4DR, FWD, Auto. #XP15394 \$10,977*	2008 CHEVROLET COBALT LT Victory Red, 4DR, FWD, Auto. #MP15470 \$10,977*	2008 FORD FOCUS SE Vermilion Red, 4DR, FWD, Auto. #XP15110A \$11,277*	2006 MAZDA3 S Whitewater Pearl, 4DR, Manual. #MP15082 \$11,377*
2009 PONTIAC G5 Dark Slate Metallic, 2DR, Coupe, Auto. #P15149 \$11,977*	2009 TOYOTA YARIS Silver Mica, 4DR, Auto. #MP15462 \$11,977*	2008 JEEP COMPASS SPORT Bright Silver Metallic, 4DR, Auto. #46465B \$12,577*	2010 FORD FOCUS SE Natural Neutral Metallic, 4DR, Auto. #MP15349 \$12,877*	2001 CADILLAC DEVILLE Sable Black, 4DR, Auto. V8. #MP15124A \$12,977*	2009 FORD FOCUS SES Brilliant Silver Metallic, 4DR, Auto. #XP15242 \$13,177*	2009 PONTIAC VIBE GT Ultra White, 4DR, Hatchback, Auto. #MP15174 \$13,577*	2009 DODGE CALIBER SXT Lt. Sandstone Metallic, 4DR, Auto. #MP15432 \$13,977*

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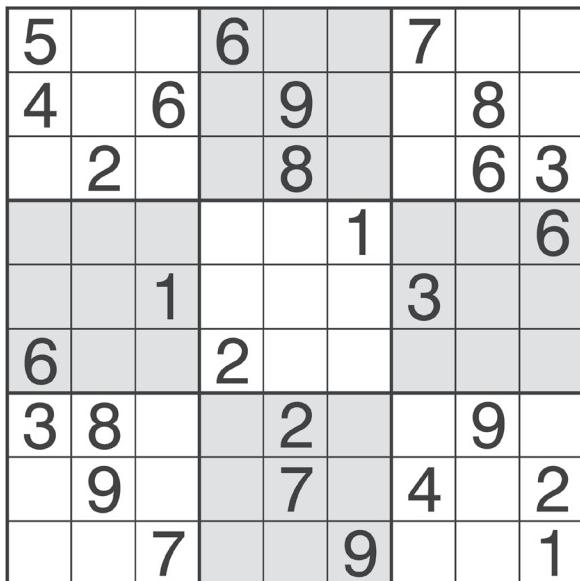
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1	2	8	4	7	5	6	9	3
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4	5	6	7	9	1	2	3	8
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7	8	2	3	4	6	1	5	9

TUESDAY'S SOLUTIONS

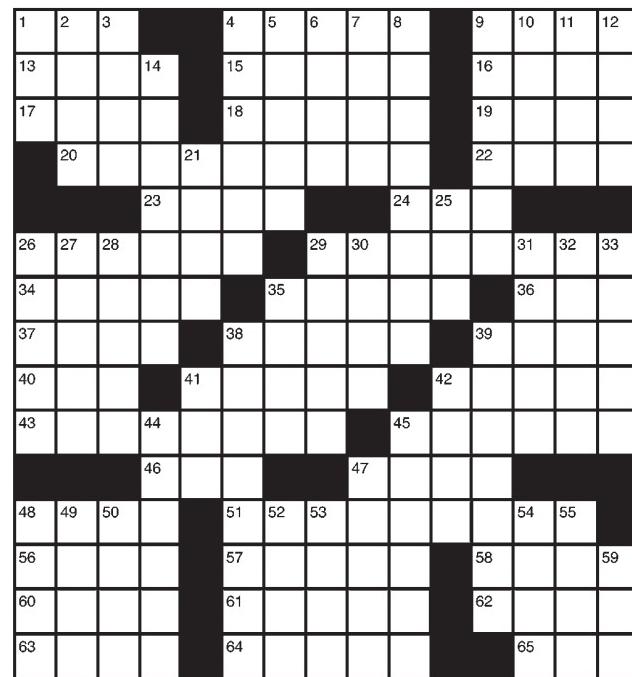


ACROSS

- 1 Sense of self-esteem
- 4 Cramps
- 9 American Beauty, for one
- 13 Give temporarily
- 15 Motivation; will to achieve
- 16 Corrupt
- 17 Leg joint
- 18 Delay; put off
- 19 Semester or trimester
- 20 Shunning
- 22 Mine discoveries
- 23 Charged atoms
- 24 In one _ & out the other
- 26 Like area under an arbor
- 29 Break
- 34 Pack animals
- 35 Actress Eva Marie _
- 36 Greed or envy
- 37 In the thick of
- 38 Period of time spent at a job
- 39 Search
- 40 Taxi
- 41 _ one's duty; be irresponsible
- 42 Needle; taunt
- 43 Loose-fitting short pants
- 45 ID; phone feature
- 46 Go quickly
- 47 Handle roughly
- 48 African nation
- 51 Ex-British mandate
- 56 Mixture
- 57 Still; lifeless
- 58 Up; absorb
- 60 Misfortunes
- 61 Theater part
- 62 Possess
- 63 Woman
- 64 Conceals
- 65 Egg layer

DOWN

- 1 Antlered animal
- 2 Autry or Kelly
- 3 Individuals
- 4 Number combined



- with another to get sum
- 5 Rowing teams
- 6 1960s stereo
- 7 If; although
- 8 Bilko or Pepper
- 9 Witty reply
- 10 Finished
- 11 Beget children
- 12 Lawn trees
- 14 Made up one's mind
- 21 Garden tools
- 25 Play division

- 26 Slap
- 27 Mortal being
- 28 Excuse
- 29 Bazaars
- 30 Skating area
- 31 Run-of-the-mill
- 32 Washing machine cycle
- 33 Go in
- 35 Cake recipe direction
- 38 Very timid
- 39 Terrible
- 41 Enjoy the slopes

- 42 Tight
- 44 Persnickety
- 45 Social divisions
- 47 Come together
- 48 Work hard
- 49 Earthenware jar
- 50 Overlay with gold
- 52 One opposed
- 53 Go first
- 54 Ark builder
- 55 Roof overhang
- 59 Barbie's mate

It's evening. It's part-time. It's Northwestern.

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txttable



Shania Twain and Frederic Thiebaud

After their spouses left them—for each other—Shania Twain and Frederic Thiebaud found love of their own and wed Saturday in Puerto Rico, [people.com](#) reported.

SANDBOX ENTERTAINMENT PHOTO



Vivica A. Fox and Omar 'Slim' White

Vivica A. Fox (above) and Omar "Slim" White, a club promoter, confirmed their engagement Tuesday to [people.com](#). He gave her an 8-karat diamond ring over the holidays.



Sherri Shepherd and Lamar Sally

Tracy Jordan is gonna be jealous. Sherri Shepherd (left), who plays Tracy's wife on "30 Rock," and TV writer Lamar Sally became engaged Dec. 26, [people.com](#) reports.



Justin Bieber and Selena Gomez

How normal teen of them. Justin Bieber and Selena Gomez (above) were caught kissing and cuddling in the Caribbean over the weekend, [people.com](#) reports. We heard he was looking for a prom date ...



Sandra Bullock and Ryan Reynolds

"The Proposal" co-stars Sandra Bullock and Ryan Reynolds spent the weekend together at Bullock's house in Texas, [eonline.com](#) reports. Sandy's rep says they're nothing more than friends, but after seeing his abs in that movie, we have to wonder.



Mila Kunis and Macaulay Culkin

Was he jealous of her "Black Swan" sex scenes? After seven years together, Mila Kunis and Macaulay Culkin confirmed their split Monday, [cnn.com](#) reports. **GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTOS**



Kellie Pickler and Kyle Jacobs

Country cutie Kellie Pickler and her songwriter beau Kyle Jacobs quietly got hitched Saturday on a private island in the Caribbean, [usmagazine.com](#) reported Tuesday.

MARRIED

ENGAGED

RUMORED

BROKEN UP

'11 in 

Celeb relationships begin the year with a bang

Just as we were settling in for a frivolous January of celebrity resolutions and dieting tips, in floods somewhat less frivolous news of hookups, breakups, weddings and engagements. It has been a busy 2011 for gossip mongers indeed, and so we humbly submit the following list* in an attempt to round up this stampeding herd of intrigue. **TRIBUNE, REDEYE CONTRIBUTED**



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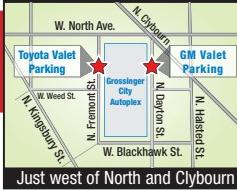
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red hot

Cue the breakup song

And we never even settled on a proper nickname for them!

Taylor Swift

and Jake Gyllenhaal split up last month, **people.com** reports—if they ever were dating, that is. The two (Swift/Gyllenhaal?) never had confirmed their couplehood, but they were spotted together over Thanksgiving weekend in Brooklyn and Nashville.

Like father, like son

Is Romeo Beckham headed for the catwalk? The 8-year-old son of Victoria and David Beckham ranked No. 26 on British GQ's best-dressed list, according to **eonline.com**, ahead of older fashionistas such as Jude Law (No. 29) and Prince William (No. 27). He has some work to do to beat his pops, though, who came in at No. 16.

Boob ban

Jwoww, she of the prodigious cleavage on "Jersey Shore," brought her talents into full view at the MTV New Year's Eve party, only to be told to put a blazer on it, **usmagazine.com** reports. Her chain-link-and-pasties "shirt" was deemed too racy, apparently. Prudes.

» For more 2011 breakups and love connections, turn to Page 30.



Groban
GETTY IMAGES FILE

West
GETTY IMAGES FILE

KANYE'S GREATEST HITS

Josh Groban is proving some of Kanye West's best work comes as a lyricist. Groban appeared on "Jimmy Kimmel Live!" on Monday and sang several of West's tweets while playing on the piano. Who knew that "fur pillows are hard to actually sleep on" could make such a great hook?

Live from 2011 ...

"Saturday Night Live" has booked the duet we all know is coming. Gwyneth Paltrow will host the show Jan. 15, and Cee-Lo Green will be the musical guest, NBC announced Tuesday. Paltrow, whose movie "Country Strong" hits theaters this week, covered Green's "Forget You" several weeks ago on "Glee." But let's not look past the year's first promising host: Jim Carrey runs the show this week.



txtable

TMZ's DOB

When did "TMZ" debut on TV? Text "tmz" followed by the number of your answer to **87708**. We'll send you a text letting you know if you're right.

1. 2002 2. 2005 3. 2007 4. 2010

THE DIGIT

three

That's how many more years you can continue drunk-watching the controversial gossip TV show "TMZ." The show, hosted by Harvey Levin, has received a three-year renewal, according to **ew.com**.

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